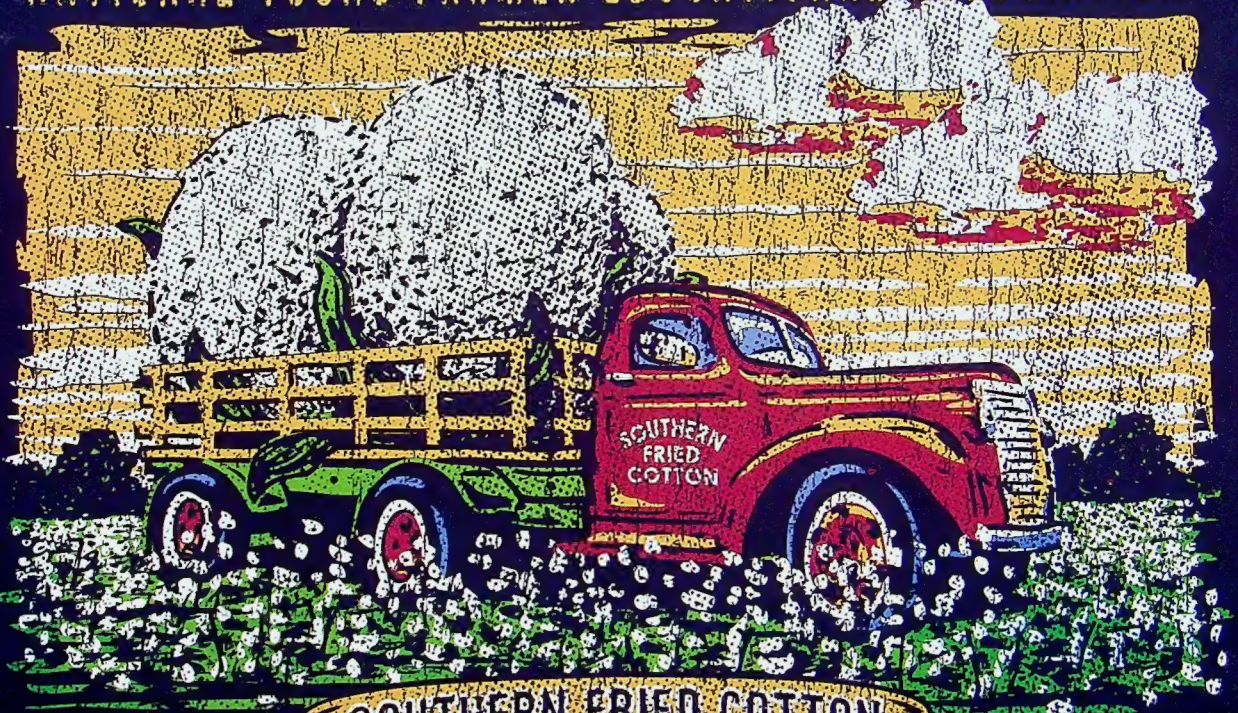


AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Volume XVI Issue 3 2016

NATIONAL YOUNG FARMER EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION



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South Carolina Host NYFEA National Institute

Contributed by Tim Keown

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Please visit our website at: www.SCAgEd.org

The NYFEA Institute, held annually since 1966, was most recently hosted by South Carolina in the beautiful city of Charleston December 9th – 12th. Young Farmer members from across the United States were in attendance and were able to witness first-hand how numerous aspects of agriculture play a vital role in the Palmetto State's beautiful Lowcountry region.

Attendees kicked off day one of the Institute with an early breakfast followed by an exciting day of agricultural tours. Members were able to visit the Charleston Ports, where they learned about the Scoular Company, a 123-year old business that provides diverse supply chain solutions for end-users and suppliers of grain, feed ingredients, and food ingredients around the globe through its 120 offices and facilities and 1200 employees.

Another Thursday tour destination included a stop at Charleston's famous Angel Oak, estimated to be at least 1,500 years old. This beautiful Live Oak stands 65 feet tall, measures 28 feet in circumference, produces shade that covers 17,200 feet, and from tip to tip, its longest branch measures 187 feet.

Next, members toured the Charleston Tea Plantation, America's only tea garden located on Wadmalaw Island. With its sandy soils, sub-tropical climate and average rainfall of 52 inches per year, Wadmalaw possess idyllic conditions for the Camellia sinensis plant. This plant is currently used to produce both black and green teas and exists in over 320 varieties on the 127 acre grounds of the Charleston Tea Plantation.

After the morning tours, attendees visited historic downtown Charleston, where they ate lunch and explored the area the remainder of the afternoon.

Thursday evening, members departed for Boone Hall Plantation, one of America's oldest working plantations. Once known for cotton and pecans, they are still actively producing strawberries, tomatoes, and pumpkins, as well as many other fruits and vegetables. Guests were also able to tour the impressive Reconstruction Era mansion prior to the Taste of South Carolina meal. The meal, sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, featured an oyster roast and other South Carolina commodities such as quail, beef, and grits. Flatland Express, an impressive bluegrass band from Orangeburg County, entertained members as they dined.

Friday's agriculture tours featured a trip to Middleton Place Plantation, a National Historic Landmark and home to America's oldest landscaped gardens. There attendees were able to tour the house museum, the magnificent gardens, and the stables, which gave members a glimpse into 18th and 19th century working plantation

life, where African American slaves once cared for the animals and performed agriculture-related chores. The skilled slaves were also responsible for making tools, pottery, clothing, and other products to support a fully functioning plantation.

After a delicious barbeque lunch, the tour continued to the Elloree Gin, where members learned about each element of cotton production, from watching the cotton arrive for processing to the storage and shipping of finished product in compressed bales.

From there, attendees toured the Carolina Peanut Company in Cameron, South Carolina, where they learned the fundamentals of peanut harvesting, including the digging phase, which uproots the plants and exposed the peanuts to the sun, and the threshing phase, which separates the pods from the vines for further curing.

Next, tour guests visited Golden Kernel Pecan, where Dr. S.J. Summers, a family physician of the Cameron community, brought from Mississippi the first pecan seedlings to be set out in South Carolina on a commercial scale before the turn of the century. There, members learned about the steps of pecan harvesting, including freeing the nuts from the tree, collecting the nuts with mechanical harvesters, and the drying process.

The Perrow Farm was the next stop on the tour. The family-run farm featured both cotton and peanut production and members were also able to learn about agriculture mechanization and watch drones in action.

Friday's tour concluded in Mt. Pleasant at Patriot's Point, as Institute attendees boarded the USS Yorktown. The USS Yorktown is one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II for the United States Navy and is named after the Battle of Yorktown of the American Revolutionary War. Yorktown was decommissioned in 1970 and in 1975 became a museum ship and is a National Historic Landmark. Members were able to enjoy a wonderful dinner aboard the Yorktown, followed by tours of the ship.

Saturday's day schedule included the Ag Decision Makers College, the Ag Communications Award Program, and the installation of the newly elected national officers. That evening, Young Farmer members attended a banquet, where they enjoyed a delicious meal and live auction. The Institute concluded with an awesome performance by Nashville recording artist and SC FFA Alumni, Doug McCormick.

Thanks to all who attended and helped to make the 2015 NYFEA Institute such a great success!



Young Farmers Present Lawson with Lifetime Achievement Award

Contributed by Tim Keown

The SCYFAA honored Dr. Laurie Lawson with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 NYFEA Institute held this past December in Charleston, SC.

Upon graduating Clemson University with a B.S. Degree in Agronomy in 1953, Dr. Lawson served in the United States Army as a Division Ammunition Officer in the 69th Infantry Division and as an Army First Lieutenant until 1955. It was then he began his career in the agriculture industry.

Dr. Lawson has an extensive history as an advocate for both South Carolina agriculture and education. He served as the Chairman of the South Carolina Agriculture Commission for eight years and also served as the State Executive Director of the South Carolina Farm Service Agency. He is a past President of the Darlington County Agricultural Society, a former member and past President of the Darlington County Board of Education, a former member and past Chairman of the Darlington County Development Board, a former member and past President of the Darlington County Farm Bureau, and a former member of the Board of Directors of the SC Farm Bureau Federation. Dr. Lawson was also recognized by the South Carolina County Agents Association for outstanding contributions to agriculture and the Clemson University Extension Service in 1982. He was one of ten Outstanding Farmers in the United States named by the American Cyanamid Corporation and was Progressive Farmer's 1985 Man of the Year in Service to South Carolina Agriculture. Awarded the prestigious "Order of the Palmetto" in 1987 by Governor Richard W. Riley, Dr. Lawson also received his honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Clemson University in 1997, followed by an Honorary State FFA Degree in 1988 and Honorary American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization in 2000.

He currently owns and operates a diversified farming operation in Darlington County with his two sons, William and James.



FFA Members Attend Clemson Ag Tailgate

Contributed by Billy Keels

FFA members from across South Carolina had an opportunity to trade their blue and gold in for orange, if but for one day.

Hundreds of FFA members traveled to Clemson University where they had the opportunity to tour the campus and see where their future might lie if they wish to pursue an agricultural degree at Clemson University.

In order to explore the many majors available in agriculture at Clemson, students had the opportunity to visit the many exhibits at the tailgate event and talk to current Clemson students and faculty about each major offered in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Science. In addition, students had the opportunity to hear some excellent speakers highlighted by presentations from David Winkles, President of SC Farm Bureau; James Clements, President of Clemson University; and Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture. Students also had the opportunity to visit with alumni from the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Science.

In addition to the festivities, students attending were provided a t-shirt, a delicious lunch and a ticket to the Clemson vs. Georgia Tech football game.

The Clemson Ag Tailgate and Youth Day is sponsored by the South Carolina Farm Bureau. Other sponsors supporting the event include: AgSouth Farm Credit, ArborOne Farm Credit, McLeod's Farms, SC Soybean Board, Southern States Cooperative and Specialty Fertilizer Products. The event is held annually during Clemson's football season, and all FFA and 4H members are cordially invited.



"Amplify" Is What Happened At The 2015 COW's

Contributed by Keith Cox

The Chapter Opportunity Workshops, hosted by the South Carolina FFA Association, once again, had an increase in participants. This past fall 785 students from 65 chapters participated in the workshops.

The State Officers concentrated the workshops on the three sections of a chapter's Program of Activities (POA). These areas are Student, Chapter, and Community Development. These three areas are the backbone of a successful chapter.

In addition, National Vice President, Ruth Ann Myers, presented a workshop for Greenhands on opportunities in the FFA.

A special thank you to Fairfield County CC, McBee High School, Crescent High School, and Aiken High School for serving as host schools.





FFA Day at the S.C. State Fair

Contributed by Keith Cox

On October 20th hundreds of FFA members, Agricultural Teachers and guest gathered at the Nutt Livestock Arena to be welcomed to the fair by Nancy Smith, Associate General Manager of the South Carolina State Fair.

After the ceremony the members had a chance to participate or watch the State Tractor Operation and Safety Career Development Event, study the livestock, tour the many displays throughout the fair buildings and, of course, enjoy the rides and food that the State Fair offers.



The S.C. State Fair has a long-standing tradition of successfully promoting the FFA. It hosted the organizational meeting of the Future Palmetto Farmers at the 1927 fair. This was a forerunner of the South Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America, known today as the South Carolina FFA Association.

The SC FFA and the S.C. State Fair would like to give the Aiken FFA a special thank you for providing mums and pumpkins that decorated the Nutt Livestock Arena.



FFA Members Presented Scholarships by SC Association of Fairs

Contributed by Keith Cox

SC Association of Fairs (SCAF) presented four Agricultural Education students a \$500 scholarship for their excellence in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), FFA Leadership, School and Community Activities and Scholastic Ability.

The students were presented with the scholarship on October 20th by Nancy Smith, President of the SCAF, during the 2015 South Carolina FFA Day at the S.C. State Fair in Columbia before a statewide audience of FFA members, agricultural educators, and agricultural industry leaders.

The Piedmont Region winner was Joey McCannon. He is a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter and plans to obtain a degree in Agriculture Education at Clemson. His advisors are Mr. Blake Berry and Mrs. Rose Jordon.

The Lower State Region winner was Sydney Craven. She is a member of the Colleton County FFA Chapter and will pursue a major in Agriculture. Her advisors are Mrs. Robin Lutton and Mr. Matt Lutton.

The Mid State Region winner was Mackenzie Brewer. She is a member of the Blythewood FFA Chapter and would like to attend Lander University and major in Elementary Education with a minor in Therapeutic Horsemanship riding. Her advisor is Mr. Tom Willingham.

The Pee Dee Region winner was Joey Brown from the Socastee FFA Chapter. He plans to attend Horry-Georgetown Tech and then transfer to Clemson in Wildlife Biology or Forestry. His advisor is Mr. Darrell Rickets.



L to R: Piedmont Region winner Joey McCannon – Pendleton FFA, Lower State Region winner Sydney Craven – Colleton County FFA, Mid State Region winner Mackenzie Brewer – Blythewood FFA, and Pee Dee Region winner Joey Brown – Socastee FFA

2015 Winter CDE Winners



State Horse Team – Pendleton

L-R: Rose Jordan (Advisor), Samantha Parker, Harper Cobb, Caroline Gilmer, Gabrielle Vickery and Nichole Veasey (assistant Coach)



Tractor Driving – Wagener-Salley

L-R Parker Hall, Adam Walling, Wyatt Gray, and Chris McCormick



Soil Judging – Pendleton

Blake Berry (advisor), Jason Smith, Katherine Vanadore, Melanie Mullikin, Maggie Barnett and Justin Allen

Fifth Annual Aim-at-Ag Sporting Clays Tournament

Contributed by Keith Cox

The fifth annual Aim-at-Ag Sporting Clays Tournament, hosted by ArborOne Farm Credit, drew the largest crowd ever, with 128 shooters participating. Held Saturday, September 19th at Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree, 14 youth teams competed as well as 86 individuals, nearly double the number of participants as 2014.

Aim-at-Ag is an annual fundraiser held by ArborOne, the proceeds of which are split between 4-H and FFA. "Both FFA and 4-H are integral to the future not only of youth but also the future of agriculture in the state of South Carolina, and ArborOne is pleased to support both organizations through Aim-at-Ag," said Kathy Heustess, President and CEO of ArborOne.

To date, Aim-at-Ag has raised over \$150,000 for the two organizations. Last year, FFA used a large portion of its donation to help underwrite the state FFA convention at Clemson. "The state convention highlights the hard work and achievements that the students have worked on all year and seeing their joy and celebration was inspiring," said Jason Creamer, ArborOne relationship manager and member of the Aim-at-Ag Committee who attended the State FFA Convention.

For more information about Aim-at-Ag, which is held each fall, please contact Jennifer King at jking@arborone.com or visit www.arborone.com.





FFA Members Apply Their Education at Summer Camp

Contributed by Billy Keels

Agricultural Education is all about learning by doing. In an effort to ensure that students are provided ample learning opportunities, the FFA Camp in North Myrtle Beach is used to provide opportunities to allow students to apply what they have learned in the classroom in a fun environment.

Environmental and Natural Resources Management is one of the five pathways offered in the Agricultural Education Career Cluster. A key part of the ENRM program is to respect and protect the environment, a respect that is centered on conservation and the wise use of natural resources.

In November, nearly 100 FFA members and Advisors attended the 2015 FFA Fishing Camp held at the FFA Camp in North Myrtle Beach to allow them to apply what they learned in the classroom.

Those attending had the opportunity to learn from representatives from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Dylan Way, a local boat captain. These experts were on hand to provide educational programs on how fishing is a key element of a conservation program. Students learned about saltwater fishing and local laws that regulate the industry. They also learned how these laws are imperative to ensure the protection of the fishing industry for years to come.

In addition, students were instructed in how to use a cast

net and were given an opportunity to perfect their skills in the marsh bordering the camp. Campers were also given instruction on proper casting techniques with a spin cast rig and provided an opportunity to demonstrate what they learned in a casting exercise.

A highlight of the camp included two deep-sea fishing excursions as all attending the camp were taken on a morning deep sea fishing trip and an afternoon deep-sea fishing trip. In addition, students were given a chance to fish from the Cherry Grove Pier.

The FFA Fishing Camp is one of five camps offered during the school year to provide FFA members and Ag Ed students an opportunity to apply and expand their education. The camp is held annually in the fall and is open to all FFA members in South Carolina but is limited to 100 participants.



Stevens Hired as Camp Director

Contributed by Billy Keels



Megan Stevens has been named as the Director of the South Carolina FFA Camp.

A native of Loris, S.C., Stevens is a former member of the FFA where she was an active member of the Loris FFA Chapter.

Upon graduation from high school, Stevens completed her undergraduate work at Clemson University in Agribusiness and then completed her Masters Degree in Business from Coastal Carolina University.

While completing her degrees, Stevens served as an intern with both the Horry County Clemson Extension office and Elliott Realty. Upon graduation, she accepted a full time position at Horry County Telephone Cooperative.

Stevens describes herself as a people person who loves the outdoors. She hopes to use her experience with the FFA combined with her business skills to help the FFA Camp grow. Her goals are to market the facility to bring in income that will be used to help develop the facilities while also developing the camping program to better serve the FFA members in South Carolina.



National FFA Convention Says Good-bye to Louisville

Contributed by Keith Cox

A record number of people - 65,173 - attended the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo in Louisville, KY. The annual FFA gathering of members, advisors, supporters, parents and others, descended on Louisville for the final year of its three-year run in the Kentucky city.

"Amplify" was the theme for this year's convention and expo. "With the opportunities we are given in our lives, we must take action and share the message of agriculture with others," said 2015-16 National FFA President Andy Paul

Saying good-bye to Louisville will not mean the landmarks such as the Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC), KFC Yum! Center, the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum, will not have a lasting memory on the FFA.

This convention also had some amazing anniversaries....

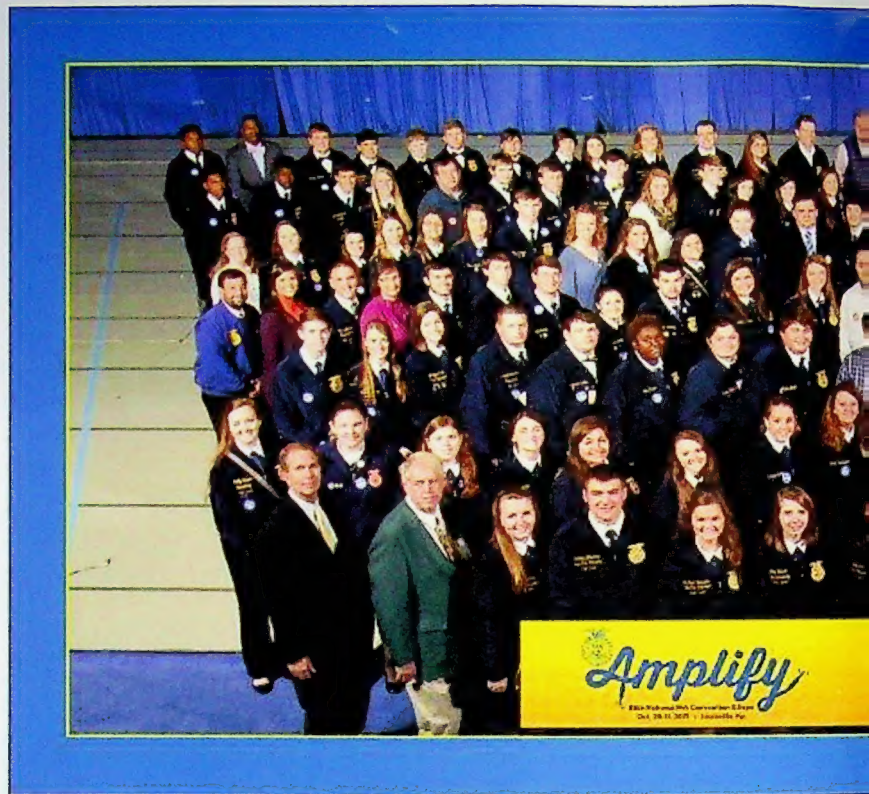
A Creed Celebration

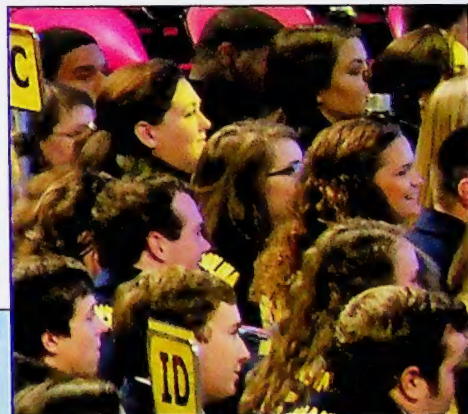
In 1930, Mickey Mouse made his debut in the New York Mirror newspaper; the first quick-frozen foods were sold in retail stores; and the Athletics (then in Philadelphia) beat the St. Louis Cardinals to win the World Series - but perhaps even more important to FFA members, the Future Farmer Creed written by Erwin Milton Tiffany was adopted as the official creed of the Future Farmers of America, known today as the National FFA Organization.

50 Years Together

Former New Farmers of America (NFA) members Dr. Connie Baggett and Retired Major General Arnold Fields' words sounded during the final General Session. This year celebrated the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of NFA and FFA. The two organizations officially merged July 1, 1965, in recognition of shared missions for agricultural education, with a ceremony at the National FFA Convention finalizing the event.

In 2016, the National FFA Convention will return to Indianapolis, IN where it was last held in 2012.





Twelve SC FFA Members Receive American Degree

Each year, the National FFA honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. This year the SC FFA Association had twelve distinguished recipients.



Included in the above picture:

Trent Rushton – Wagener Salley Chapter
Hunter Holland – Latta Chapter
Ashley Owens – Saluda Chapter
Anna Mink – Aiken Chapter

Ariel Berrios – Laurens Chapter
Mandy Martin – Pendleton Chapter
Anna Marie Nelson – Dixie Chapter
Patrick LeFebvre – Aynor Chapter

Absent from the above picture:

Karson Lynn Barrett – Strom Thurmond Chapter
Cassandra Calvo – Laurens Chapter

Morgan Spaulding – Strom Thurmond Chapter
Ashley Michaela Still – Piedmont Tech / Saluda Chapter



State President, **Katie Martin** accepts the award for an increase in membership award for the South Carolina FFA Association. This is a 43-year high for our state, and the Association would like to thank all the teachers for their hard work to make this honor possible. National FFA set a new record with 629,367 members nationally.



Anna Mink of the Aiken Chapter and former 2013-14 State FFA President served as a member of the National Officer Nominating Committee. Anna was one of only nine members selected from across the nation to serve on this prominent committee. The SC FFA would like to thank Anna for her energy and commitment to the FFA. Anna is an upper classman in Agriculture Education at Clemson University and will be involved in the FFA for years to come.



Savannah Vickery of the Pendleton Chapter and former 2013-14 State FFA Vice President served as our national officer candidate. The association was thrilled that she advanced to the second phase of the election process. The SC FFA would like to thank her for her effort and dedication to the association and FFA everywhere. Savannah's future looks bright as she works on her degree in Agriculture Education at Clemson University.



National FFA Vice President Visits Local Chapters

Contributed by Keith Cox

National FFA Vice President, Ruth Ann Myers, from Kentucky, had the opportunity to visit several schools while making a visit to South Carolina.

Myers visited The Center for Advanced Technical Studies in Lexington – Richland District 5 where she had the opportunity to visit the school farm and greenhouse.

Myers also made a stop at the Applied Technology Education Campus in Kershaw County where she joined FFA members in a tour of the new greenhouse and spoke with the agriculture classes.

At Clover High School, Myers became part of the school tradition by having the “rock” painted for her before touring the school farm.

The final stop for Myers was Calhoun Falls Charter School where she toured the facilities and even had a chance to drive the school tractor.



Al Gray Receives Honorary American FFA Degree

Contributed by Keith Cox

Al Gray, FFA Advisor at Darlington Institute of Technology, traveled to Louisville, KY where he received the Honorary American FFA Degree on stage at the National FFA Convention.

Mr. Gray has been the advisor of five different Agricultural Education programs in South Carolina over the past 32 years. Out of the five, he has started four programs from the ground level.

Over the years, he was selected to the Agriscience Teacher Academy in 2013. He serves as the advisor for two different young farmer chapters in Darlington County. Mr. Gray has served as District / Region SCAAE Vice President four different times and as State SCAAE President. He has also served on several different regional and national committees.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is awarded to individuals who have provided exceptional service to agriculture, agricultural education or the FFA and is the highest degree presented by the National FFA organization.





Bridging The Gap Through Gardening And Grants

Contributed by Mindy Sandifer, FFA Advisor, Barnwell County Career Center



In the Spring 2015, approximately 25 FFA chapter members from Barnwell County Career Center participated in the construction of raised garden beds at a Barnwell County nursing home. The raised beds were planted through donations from local businesses.

Residents of the UniHealth Post Acute Care Center enjoyed the gardens throughout the summer and even planted collards for the fall. Bounties of the harvest have been included by the nursing home chefs into their daily menu.

Chapter advisor, Mindy Sandifer, applied for two grants for the garden project. The Tractor Supply "Grants for Growing" was awarded to the chapter in the amount of \$537 in November and the SC Farm Bureau "Mini-Garden Grant" in the amount of \$500 in January. Through these funds, some donations from community businesses, and some additional sustainable gardening ideas, the nursing home garden will continue to flourish and serve as a connection between youth of the Barnwell community and its elder generation of residents.



SC Teachers Win National Awards

Taken from excerpts from NAAE Press Releases

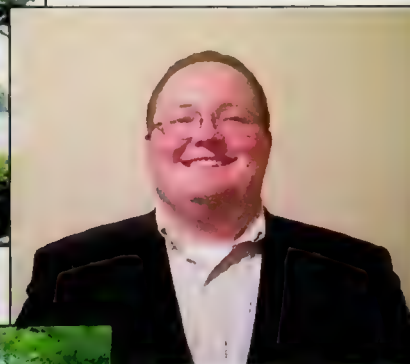
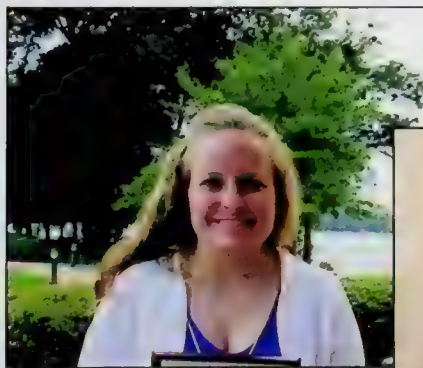
The Annual National Association of Agricultural Educators Convention was held in November in New Orleans. The convention was well attended by teachers from South Carolina. South Carolina was also well represented when it came to receiving National honors as three SC Agricultural Educators received National Awards.

Katie Gilson, agricultural educator at Applied Technology Education Campus in Camden received the NAAE Region V Outstanding Young Member Award. Outstanding Young Member winners are recognized for their contributions to the NAAE and success in the classroom. John Deere sponsors the Outstanding Young Member program as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Jason Gore, agricultural educator at Crestwood High School in Sumter, S.C., received the Region V Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award. The National Agriscience Teacher of the Year award recognizes teachers who have inspired and enlightened their students through engaging and interactive lessons in the science of agriculture. PotashCorp sponsors the National Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Pat Earle, agricultural educator at McBee High School was selected for the 2015 National Association of Agricultural Educators Lifetime Achievement Award representing Region V. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to NAAE members who have made a significant contribution to Agricultural Education at the state, regional and national levels. Earle was recognized for his many contributions to the profession. Ford sponsors the Lifetime Achievement Award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

NAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators. Its mission is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service."



*Top Left – Katie Gilson
Middle Right – Jason Gore
Bottom Left – Pat Earle*

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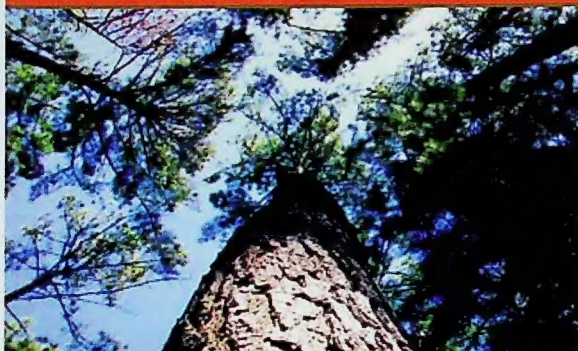
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